

State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Yakima Washington

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATIONS FOR)
CHANGE BY R.I.F. DEVELOPMENT CORP.)
REQUESTING A CHANGE IN PLACE OF USE) Emergency Drought
AND POINT OF DIVERSION OF WATER USE) Change Authorization
UNDER WATER RIGHT CERTIFICATE S3-20683C)
)

In accordance with the provisions of RCW 43.83B.405, on March 14, 2001, it was ordered and determined by the Director of the Department of Ecology that the State of Washington is under drought conditions. In accordance with the provisions of WAC 176-166-060, the Department of Ecology is under the terms of this Order, issuing an EMERGENCY DROUGHT CHANGE AUTHORIZATION. The intent of this authorization is to alleviate hardships and reduce the burdens on water users arising from the drought conditions.

Background

On March 28, 2001, R.I.F. Development Corp. filed an application to change an existing water right in Douglas County to other property they own and farm in Douglas County. The irrigation permit, S4-27890(B)P on the second parcel is subject to interruption under the Columbia River Instream Resources Protection Program, WAC 173-563.

WAC 173-166-080 allows the state to authorize temporary transfers of irrigation rights provided that the acreage on the second parcel does not exceed the acreage reduction on the first parcel.

Surface Water Certificate S3-20683C

Surface Water Certificate S3-20683C, with a priority date of 1972, was issued to Connecticut General Life Insurance Company and Bro Ben, Inc. and authorized the irrigation of 1200 acres of irrigation from Lake Rufus Woods. The irrigated land is in Douglas County. The Certificate authorizes 16 cfs and 6420 acre-feet per year for irrigation of 1200 acres. R.I.F Development Corporation of Omak, Washington presently owns the property. The point of diversion is located within Section 3, T 29 N, R 26 EWM.

1200 acres of irrigation have not been perfected on the property. Ecology has documentation of approximately 318 acres of irrigation. 240 acres of orchard have recently been or are presently being taken out of production. It is proposed that 56 acres of irrigation be transferred downriver to the R.I.F. Development Corp's orchard in Douglas County. Under a separate application, there is a request to transfer the remaining 184 acres to another property owned by Auvil Fruit Company.

R.I.F. Development Corporation Property

The R.I.F. Development Corp property is located approximately 2.5 miles west of Brewster, south of the Columbia River in Douglas County. Surface Water Permit S4-27890(B)P authorizes 1.24 cfs, 224 acre-feet per year from the Columbia River for irrigation of 56 acres. This permit is subject to curtailment under the Columbia River Instream Resources Protection Program, WAC 173-563.

The point of diversion is located along the Columbia River within the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 28, T 30 N, R 24 EWM.

Conclusions and Decision

Authorizing these changes of water rights downriver along the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers will not impair existing water rights.

This **DROUGHT EMERGENCY CHANGE DECISION** authorizes the transfer of 56 acres of irrigation under Surface Water Certificate S3-20683C to lands in Douglas County described as follows:

That portion of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, T 30 N, R 24 EWM, lying north of the centerline of County Road No. 903.

The point of diversion shall be located within the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28, T 30 N, R 24 EWM. This is the existing point of diversion for Permit S4-27890(B)P.

A water duty of 0.02 cfs and 4 acre-feet per acre is authorized for use on the property.

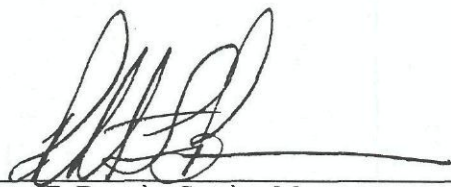
The point of diversion shall be the existing pump station for surface water permit S4-27890(B) located along the Columbia River within the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 28, T 30 N, R 24 EWM.

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The following provisions shall apply to this change authorization:

- A measuring device approved by the Department of Ecology must be installed prior to use of the water.
- Bi-weekly (every 2 weeks) readings of the measuring device shall be recorded and shall include the date and time of measurement, water flow rate, volume of water, and the name of the person taking the meter readings. Within 30-days of the end of this irrigation season, the permittee shall send a copy of this data to the Central Regional Office.
- This drought emergency authorization expires on October 31, 2001.

APPROVED BY:



Robert F. Barwin, Section Manager

DATE:

4/12/01

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